

August 31, 2021

FOR YOUR INFORMATION MEMO

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager



Subject: Update on Clifton Avenue Two-Way Protected Bike Lane

The temporary two-way protected bicycle lane on Clifton Avenue between Straight Street and Ludlow Avenue was installed in March of 2021. Materials for the temporary bike lane were funded by the Devou Good Foundation. As outlined in the attached report to Cincinnati City Council (Item No. 202100101), the temporary bike lane was designed as a pilot program to evaluate its performance and to collect traffic data for speed and volume evaluation, which can aid in the design of a permanent protected bike lane on this site.

The data collected before and after installation of the piloted bike lane demonstrates that speeding has decreased. The speed limit on Clifton Avenue is 35mph. During a typical week before the bike lane was installed, 22,418 motorists were speeding on Clifton Avenue. During a typical week after the bike lane was installed, only 16,105 motorists were speeding, a 28% decrease in the number of cars speeding. The largest reduction in speeding occurred in vehicles going over 40mph, which was reduced by 43%.

Based on the data collected, DOTE recommends the removal of the temporary bike lane and installation of a permanent protected bicycle lane. Funding for a permanent bike lane has not been identified; a funding source must be identified for the estimated \$3MM expense.

Removal of the Temporary Lane

At this time, all needed data for DOTE purposes has been derived from the temporary lane. The original intent was for the temporary bike lane to be removed in August of 2021, and the University of Cincinnati has requested that the temporary bike lane be removed to accommodate for higher traffic associated with the return of in-person learning and for the construction of a new academic building at the corner of Clifton Avenue and Clifton Court, letter attached.

To accommodate snow removal operations, the temporary bike lane must be removed by November 1, 2021. If a majority of Council recommends a continuation of the temporary bike lane program until the end of October 2021, the Administration will make accommodations to implement that continuation. Otherwise, the Administration will move forward with removal of the temporary bike lane in the coming weeks.

Attachments

cc: John S. Brazina, Director, Transportation and Engineering